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(72) Inventors: SCHWARZ, Marlene: 161 Islington Road, Newton, MA 02466 (US). MILLER, Kathleen: 93 Brookdale Circle, Shrewsbury, MA 01545 (US). KAMATH, Kalpana: 20 Silver Hill Lane, Natick, MA 01760 (US).

(74) Agents: BRAINARD, Charles, R. et al.; Kenyon & Kenyon, Suite 700, 1500 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005 (US).

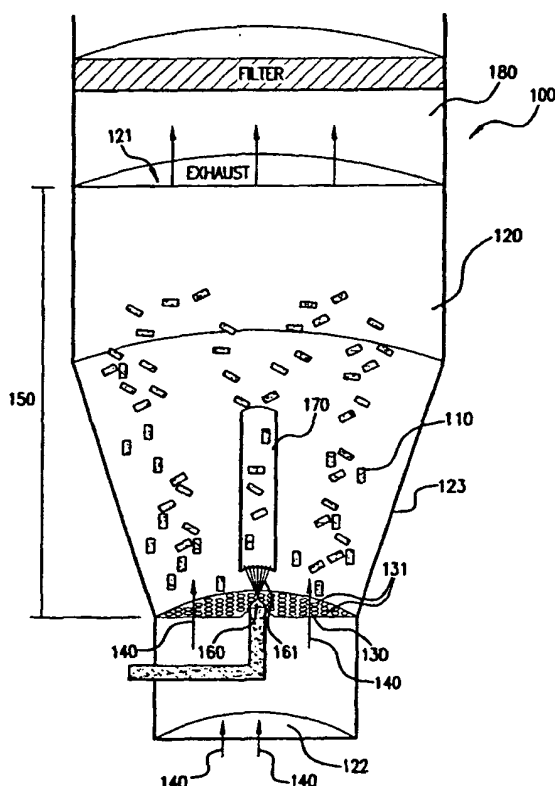
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(71) Applicant: SCIMED LIFE SYSTEMS, INC. [US/US]:
One Scimed Place, Maple Grove, MN 55311-1566 (US).

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(54) Title: COATING MEDICAL DEVICES USING AIR SUSPENSION



(57) Abstract: Methods and apparatuses for coating medical devices and the devices thereby produced are disclosed. In one embodiment, the invention includes a method comprising the steps of suspending the medical device in an air stream and introducing a coating material into the air stream such that the coating material is dispersed therein and coats at least a portion of the medical device. In another embodiment, the medical devices are suspended in an air stream and a coating apparatus coats at least a portion of the medical device with a coating material. The coating apparatus may include a device that utilizes any number of alternative coating techniques for coating the medical devices. This process is used to apply one or more coating materials, simultaneously or in sequence. In certain embodiments of the invention, the coating materials include therapeutic agents, polymers, sugars, waxes, or fats. By using air suspensions to coat medical devices, the methods of the present invention result in coatings having minimal defects and uniform thicknesses and mechanical properties. Further, the methods of the present invention are time efficient and cost effective because they facilitate the coating of numerous medical devices in a single batch, resulting in numerous medical device units containing substantially the same coating.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	US 2 648 609 A (D.E. WURSTER) 11 August 1953 (1953-08-11) the whole document --- -/--	1,2,16, 21, 23-25, 27, 36-38, 41-43, 50,51



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx 3: 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Brothier, J-A

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